



## CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.8

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, with sufficient postage, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the below date:

Date: January 4, 2005 Name: Joseph F. Hetz

Signature:

BRINKS  
HOFFER  
GILSON  
& LIONE

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Appln. of: Dhindsa

Appln. No.: 10/731,327

Filed: December 8, 2003

Art Unit: 3739

For: Endoscope Valve Assembly and Method

Attorney Docket No: 10672-28

Commissioner for Patents  
P. O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

## TRANSMITTAL

Sir:

## Attached is/are:

- ☒ Transmittal Letter (1 page in duplicate); First Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement (2 pages); Form PTO 1449 (1 page)
- ☒ Return Receipt Postcard

## Fee calculation:

- ☒ No additional fee is required.
- ☐ Small Entity.
- ☐ An extension fee in an amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ for a \_\_\_\_\_-month extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a).
- ☐ A petition or processing fee in an amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(\_\_\_\_\_).
- ☐ An additional filing fee has been calculated as shown below:

|   |                                     |       |                                    |                  | Small Entity |           |    | Not a Small Entity |           |
|---|-------------------------------------|-------|------------------------------------|------------------|--------------|-----------|----|--------------------|-----------|
|   | Claims Remaining<br>After Amendment |       | Highest No.<br>Previously Paid For | Present<br>Extra | Rate         | Add'l Fee | or | Rate               | Add'l Fee |
| Total                                     |                                     | Minus |                                    |                  | x \$25=      |           |    | x \$50=            |           |
| Indep.                                    |                                     | Minus |                                    |                  | x 100=       |           |    | x \$200=           |           |
| First Presentation of Multiple Dep. Claim |                                     |       |                                    |                  | +\$180=      |           |    | +\$360=            |           |
|   |                                     |       |                                    |                  | Total        | \$        |    | Total              | \$        |

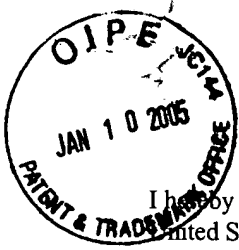
## Fee payment:

- ☐ A check in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed.
- ☐ Please charge Deposit Account No. 23-1925 in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_. A copy of this Transmittal is enclosed for this purpose.
- ☐ Payment by credit card in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ (Form PTO-2038 is attached).
- ☒ The Director is hereby authorized to charge payment of any additional filing fees required under 37 CFR § 1.16 and any patent application processing fees under 37 CFR § 1.17 associated with this paper (including any extension fee required to ensure that this paper is timely filed), or to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 23-1925.

Respectfully submitted,

Date

  
Joseph F. Hetz (Reg. No. 41,070)



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Date of Deposit

Joseph F. Hetz - Reg. No. 41,070

Name of Applicant, Assignee or  
Registered Representative

[Signature]  
Signature

Patent  
Our Case No. 10672-28

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

|                         |   |                      |
|-------------------------|---|----------------------|
| In re Application of:   | ) |                      |
| Dhindsa                 | ) |                      |
|                         | ) |                      |
| Serial No.: 10/731,327  | ) | Group Art Unit: 3739 |
|                         | ) |                      |
| Filed: December 8, 2003 | ) |                      |
|                         | ) |                      |
| For: Endoscope Valve    | ) |                      |
| Assembly and Method     | ) |                      |

**FIRST SUPPLEMENTAL**  
**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

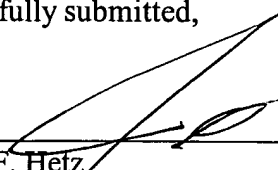
Dear Sir:

Pursuant to the obligation under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and in conformance with 37 C.F.R. §§  
1.97-1.99, Applicant hereby submits documents A1-A10 listed on the attached form PTO-1449  
for consideration by the Examiner. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner review the  
entire disclosure of these documents and make them of record.

The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement does not constitute an admission that the information cited herein is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(b). Further, Applicant reserves the right to contest that any of the information submitted herewith is prior art against the present application.

Dated: January 4, 2005

Respectfully submitted,



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Joseph F. Hetz  
Reg. No. 41,070  
Attorney for Applicant

BRINKS HOFER  
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Chicago, Illinois 60610  
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|   |                                 |                        |
|---|---------------------------------|------------------------|
| FORM PTO-1449   | SERIAL NO.<br>10/731,327        | CASE NO.<br>10672-28   |
| LIST OF PATENTS AND PUBLICATIONS FOR<br>APPLICANT'S INFORMATION DISCLOSURE<br>STATEMENT | FILING DATE<br>December 8, 2003 | GROUP ART UNIT<br>3739 |
| (use several sheets if necessary)   | APPLICANT(S): Dhindsa           |                        |

## REFERENCE DESIGNATION

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| EXAMINER<br>INITIAL |     | DOCUMENT<br>NUMBER<br><small>Number-Kind Code (if known)</small> | DATE    | NAME             | CLASS/<br>SUBCLASS | FILING<br>DATE |
|---------------------|-----|--|---------|------------------|--------------------|----------------|
|                     | A1  | 4,325,362  | 04/1982 | Ouchi et al.     |                    |                |
|                     | A2  | 5,027,791  | 07/1991 | Takahashi        |                    |                |
|                     | A3  | 6,558,317 B2   | 05/2003 | Takahashi et al. |                    |                |
|                     | A4  | 5,840,015  | 11/1998 | Ogino            |                    |                |
|                     | A5  | 5,938,589  | 08/1999 | Wako et al.      |                    |                |
|                     | A6  | 6,309,347 B1   | 11/2001 | Takahashi et al. |                    |                |
|                     | A7  | 6,346,075 B1   | 02/2002 | Arai et al.      |                    |                |
|                     | A8  | 6,383,132 B1   | 05/2002 | Wimmer           |                    |                |
|                     | A9  | 6,387,045 B1   | 05/2002 | Takahashi        |                    |                |
|                     | A10 | 6,425,535 B1   | 07/2002 | Akiba            |                    |                |

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

| EXAMINER<br>INITIAL |  | DOCUMENT<br>NUMBER<br><small>Number-Kind Code (if known)</small> | DATE | COUNTRY | CLASS/<br>SUBCLASS | TRANSLATION<br>YES OR NO |
|---------------------|--|--|------|---------|--------------------|--------------------------|
|---------------------|--|--|------|---------|--------------------|--------------------------|

## OTHER ART – NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

| EXAMINER<br>INITIAL | (Include name of author, title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published. |
|---------------------|--|
|---------------------|--|

| EXAMINER | DATE CONSIDERED |
|----------|-----------------|
|----------|-----------------|

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.